Guidelines for Creating Your Final Portfolio

Your last project for this class is to create a final portfolio of your work this semester. This portfolio is due on Dec. 7th (Reading Day) between 10-12 in my office (Sanford 313). It will include all of your drafts, selections from your writer’s notebook, your WID handout, and other material you want to include. Rather than simply placing these writings into a folder and turning them in, you’ll also shape and frame these writings with an introduction that tells the story of this portfolio and your writing in 1510 this semester.

To shape your portfolio to tell a story, you need to figure out first what story or stories you hear your work suggesting. Sit down with your writings for this class, read, and reread: your drafts and your writer’s notebook. Look for connections, tensions, moments of frustration, moments of surprise. Look for common themes or questions that run across your writings this semester. As you find possible story lines in your writings and readings, look too for “scenes,” for the particular moments in your writing, reading, and class work that create this story and that you’ll want to consider in your introduction.

Your portfolio should include your finished drafts-- that is, revised, edited, and polished -- as well as all of the earlier drafts of the major papers you’ve been working on this semester. Please label them (ex: draft 2, paper 2) and indicate which papers are “finished” by writing “final draft” on them. Your portfolio can also include:

1. Writer’s notebook selections that are a part of the story your portfolio tells;
2. Your letter to me from the beginning of the semester;
3. Your handout from the WID presentation;
4. Additional writings from other classes or personal work that seem to be part of the story of your writing this semester;
5. Excerpts from writings by others in this class or beyond this class that are also a part of your story;
6. Anything else beyond and not included in this short list that helps your portfolio tell its story.

You’ll shape and offer readers a way to read your story of this class in part through how you put your portfolio writings together. Those writings might be chronological or they might be organized around particular themes and questions, or they might be grouped to show contrast or even conflict. Play around with different orderings to see how the order changes the story your portfolio tells.

You’ll also shape and offer readers a way to read your story of this class through your introduction. In the introduction consider what you see and what you want others to see in your portfolio, the story or stories you hear it telling and where and how. Consider why you’ve organized it as you have, what you’ve included and why, what themes or questions make up this story portfolio. The introduction can be a place for you to explore anything beyond class as well as within class that contributed to your writing, learning, and questions this semester.

Plan to write between 3-5 pages for your introduction. Bring a first draft of it to the conference in my office (Sanford 313) next week.